on cyber-feudalism (pt 1)

Picture a classroom role-play. One student plays “The Baron of Cyber-Feudalism,”

another plays “The Rational Rebel.” The rest watch, laugh nervously, and take notes for the day they’ll inevitably meet an uncle like this

at a family dinner.

Baron of Cyber-Feudalism (BCF):

Everyone knows

Europe is collapsing. Every street in Paris is basically a crime zone now. Millions of criminals arrived last year alone.

Rational Rebel (RR): You're using dramatic numbers without sources. That's a persuasion move, not evidence.

(Cookbook #1 + #3)

BCF:

Look, I spoke to security people. Top people. They told me Paris is finished as a city.

RR:

That's an interesting story, but stories aren't data. What's the evidence behind it? (Cookbook #5)

BCF:

Evidence? You just have to look at what's happening! France is losing its identity.

RR:

I get that many

people feel culturally anxious. But feeling something doesn't make a whole country "finished." (Cookbook #4)

BCF:

If we don't close the borders now, Europe as we know it will be gone in five years.

RR:

That's using fear

to create urgency. Fear is a feeling, not a forecast. (Cookbook #4 again)

BCF:

I'm just being realistic.

Countries that stay open collapse. Look at Sweden.

RR:

If that's true, show the mechanism. How

does “openness” automatically cause “collapse”? Walk me through the steps. (Cookbook #7)

BCF:

I don’t have time

to explain it step by step. Real leaders act, they don't write essays.

RR:

Avoiding explanation doesn't make a

claim stronger. It actually shows your argument depends on the *absence* of mechanisms. (Cookbook #7 counterattack)

BCF:

You're just politically correct.

RR:

When arguments become labels instead of reasons, that's a

signal there weren't reasons to begin with. (Cookbook #6)

BCF:

Whatever, Europe is weak and needs strong men to fix

it.

RR:

That's not a policy position, that's a power fantasy. (Cookbook #10)

BCF:

So you don't believe Europe has problems?

RR:

I think Europe has real problems, but solving them requires smart

policies, not crisis-mythology. Let's talk solutions. (Cookbook #9)

BCF:

Such as?

RR:

Democratic resilience, economic inclusion, real integration policy, and cooperative security. Those are actual strategies, not

slogans.
(Cookbook #9 continued)

BCF (slightly rattled):

Well... I still think borders are magic.

RR:

Magic belongs in fantasy novels, not geopolitics. And borders aren't sorcery; they're infrastructure, negotiation, and law. (humor +

reframing)

BCF (starting to sputter):

You’re just naïve.

RR:

Calling me naïve

isn't an argument. It's a dominance tactic. And I don't debate tactics; I debate ideas. (Cookbook #3)

Instructor steps in,

grinning:

“Perfect. You didn’t follow his emotional gravity. You named the tricks, reframed the logic, and never accepted

fear as a premise. Now switch roles and do it again, but this time, make it about climate policy." Because the point isn't "winning." The point is

learning to keep your head while the cyber-feudal lord swings his smartphone like Excalibur.